



Musical Notes: How Singing, Clapping, and Tapping Support Early Literacy Development

Mary Frasier, presenter



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Children with weak early
literacy skills struggle to
learn to read.



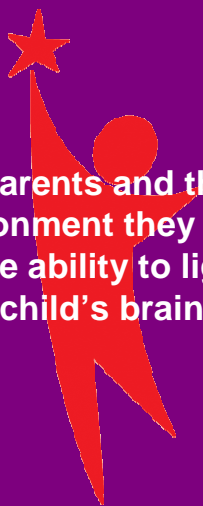
Why are early literacy skills important to develop?



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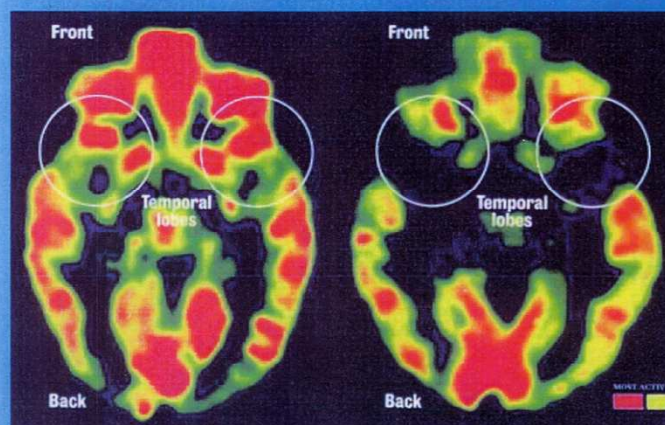
Parents and the
environment they create
have the ability to light up a
child's brain.



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Rethinking the Brain: Nature vs. Nurture

The "Plasticity" of the Brain Effects of Extreme Deprivation



Healthy Child

Neglected Child

Images courtesy of Harry Chugani, MD, Children's Hospital of Michigan, Wayne State University



Young children need
caregivers to nurture
their musical ability.



Nature vs. Nurture in Music Education

Gordon vs. Suzuki



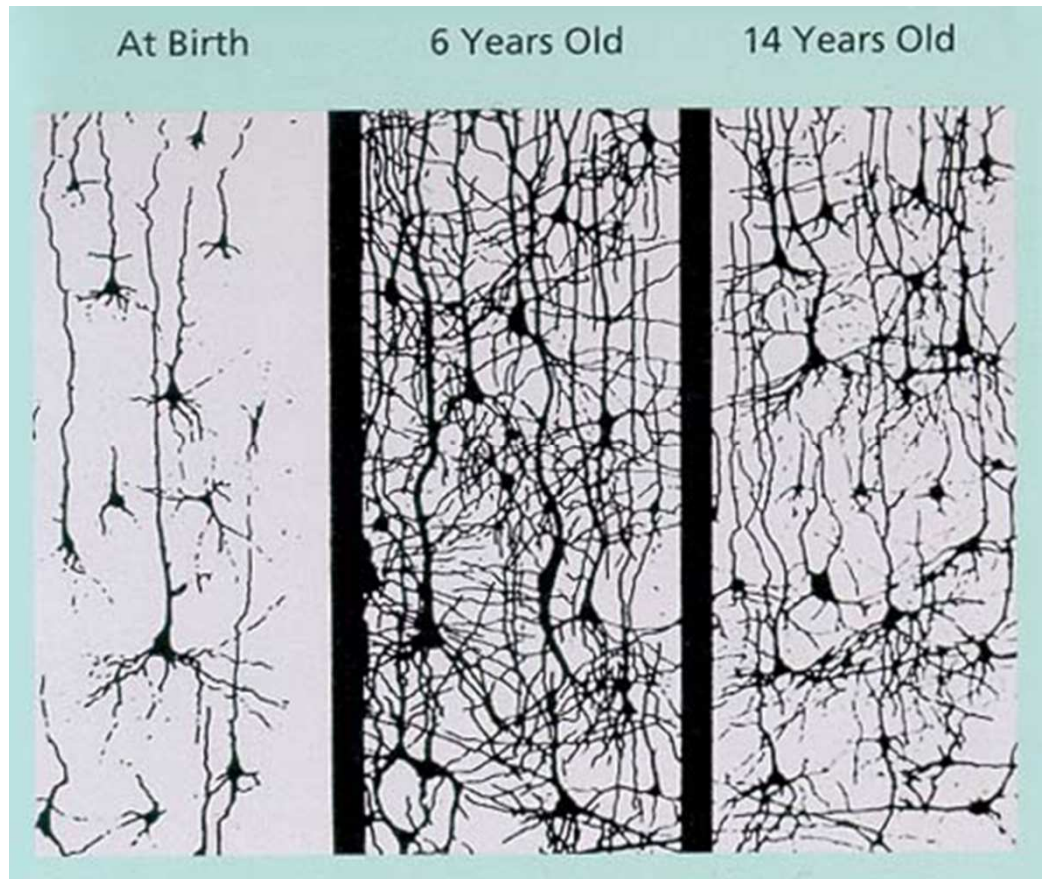
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Early childhood provides us
with a window of
opportunity.



Rethinking the Brain: Linear vs. Non-linear



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Parents and other
important caregivers are
in the best position to
help children get ready
to read.



A child's first and most
important teacher



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Relative economic
advantage is the highest
correlate to reading
success.



Early Literacy and Poverty

- Risk factors to low vocabulary
 - Poverty – biggest risk factor. Affects 1 in 5 children.
 - Mother's education
 - Mother's language ability

Skill demonstrated by Pre-K child	Lowest SES	Highest SES
Alphabetics	39%	85%
Phonological Awareness	10%	51%
Write Name	54%	76%
Hours Read Aloud	25 hours	1,000 hours
Accumulated Experience w/ words	13 million	45 million

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Early literacy is what
children know about
reading and writing before
they can actually read and
write



Early Literacy Defined

- Language readiness
- Background knowledge
- Print concepts



Reading is learning the code.

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz
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Learning to decode words
is the strongest predictor
of early reading success.



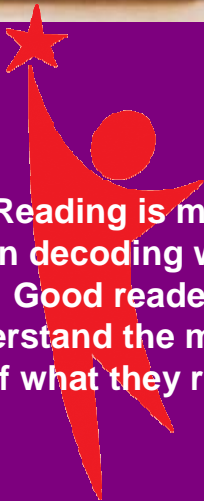
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Reading is more
than decoding words.
Good readers
understand the meaning
of what they read.



Reading is understanding the meaning.



Leah is hipple when she roffs
with her mom.

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Some language skills take
a lifetime to acquire.



Not all reading skills are equal.

Children begin to learn reading skills at birth.

Some skills, such as learning letter names and hearing the sounds that make up words, are constrained or limited. Once you learn the name of the letter "A," you don't need to learn any more about that letter name. Other skills are unconstrained or unlimited, such as vocabulary. Learning the meaning of words is something that continues throughout life.

All reading skills are important. Comprehension skills, however, are the best predictor of long-term reading achievement and success.



Decoding Skills

Notice print

Know letter names and sounds

Hear the sounds that make up words

Usually learned by 3rd grade

Adult



High School

3rd Grade

Kindergarten

Birth



Comprehension Skills

Understanding the meaning of words and print.

Learned throughout life

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Help your child be ready
to read with simple
activities every day.



Five simple practices help children
get ready to read.

 **Talking** |  **Singing** |  **Reading** |  **Writing** |  **Playing**





Relative experience with
language expands affects
a child's vocabulary and
speaking ability.



Talking

Children learn about language by listening to parents talk and joining in the conversation.

- Builds Language Fluency
- Background Knowledge

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A child's interest in
reading is an important
predictor of reading
success.



Reading

- ▣ Develops vocabulary and comprehension
- ▣ Nurtures a love for reading.
- ▣ Motivates children to want to learn to read.

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Reading and writing go
together.



Writing

- ▣ Builds phonological awareness.
- ▣ Alphabetics.
- ▣ Print concepts
- ▣ Narrative skills

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Writing helps your child
get ready to read.



Writing:

Making Marks



Drawing and Writing



Name Writing



Word Writing



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Children learn about
language through
different kinds of play.



Playing

- Words map onto concepts.
- Builds conceptual knowledge of the world.
- Engages children in problem-solving.
- Fosters social interactions.

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Singing helps children
get ready to read.



Singing

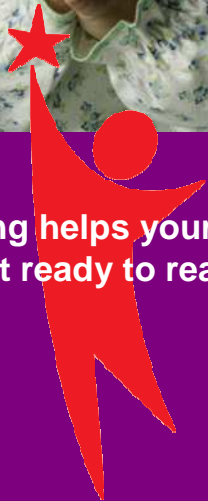
Songs are a natural way to learn about language.

- Develops listening skills.
- Slows down language so children can hear the different sounds in words, or “phonological awareness,” a key decoding skill.
- Helps children learn new words and information.

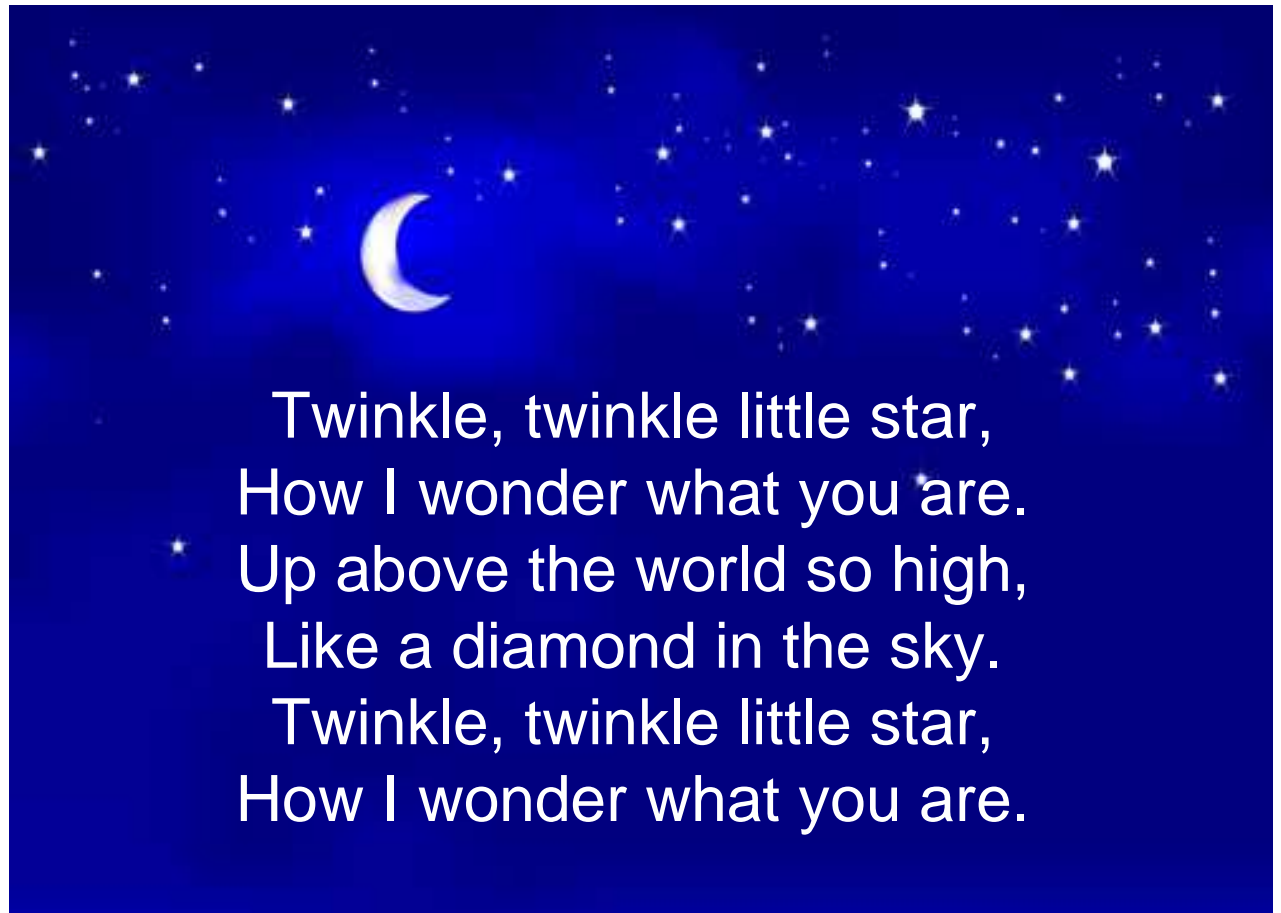
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Singing helps your child
get ready to read.

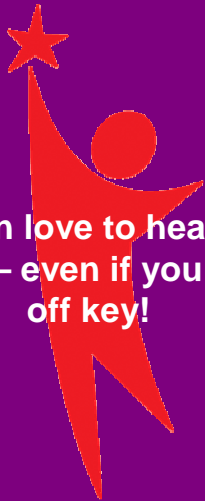


Singing



Twinkle, twinkle little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle little star,
How I wonder what you are.

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Children love to hear your
voice – even if you sing
off key!



Singing

- Implications for educators
 - Encourage adults to speak musically
 - Creates a powerful emotional bond
 - Songs and rhymes throughout the day!

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People may
continue to
develop musical
skills and
appreciation
throughout their
lives.



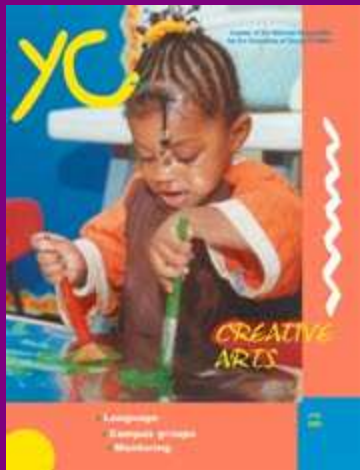
Preschool Concepts

- Constrained
 - ▣ Letters/sounds
 - ▣ Colors
- Unconstrained
 - ▣ Mathematics
 - ▣ Science
 - ▣ Social Studies
 - ▣ Physical Education
 - ▣ The Arts

Theorist	Theory	Principal Features
Stage and Phase Theories		
Jean Piaget	Stage-dependent theory	We progress through 4 stages of intellectual development: sensorimotor, preoperational, concrete operations, and formal operations
Jerome Bruner	Modes of representation	Learners progress through three ways of understanding related to maturation: enactive, iconic, symbolic
Lauren Sosniak	Developmental stages of the performer	Three phases of musical progress: tinkering, technical, and masterful
Gregory Bateson and Catherine Ellis	Learning I, II, III	Three phases of learning progress: enculturation, acquisition of skills, personal and aesthetic expression
Musical Play and Socialization		
G. Stanley Hall	Musical Play	Children train for adulthood through games: musical play leads to musical understanding
Lee Vygotsky	Socialization	Children are socialized through adult intervention and guidance; socialization leads to cultural knowledge
Constructivist Theory		
David Jonassen	Constructivism	Children develop their understanding through the meaning they make from their experiences
Reinforcement and Social Learning		
B. F. Skinner and Robert Thorndike	Reinforcement	Learning is shaped through positive or negative reinforcement
Albert Bandura	Social Learning	Children observe and emulate their adult models
Learning Style Theories		
Richard Restak	Cerebral dominance	Learners are dominated by left-hemispheric (linear) or right-hemispheric (holistic) processing

Howard Gardner	Multiple intelligences	Learners possess one or more types of intelligence or ways of being intelligent.
Walter Barbe and Raymond Swassing	Learning Modalities	Learners process information through a preferred sensory channel: visual, auditory, or kinesthetic
Rita Dunn and Kenneth Dunn	Learning style model	A variety of factors influence learning: environmental, emotional, social, and physical
Isabel Myers and Peter Briggs	Myers Briggs Type indicator	Sixteen Myers-Briggs personality types that influence the way we approach learning: extroversion/introversion; sensing/intuitive/ thinking/feeling; and judging/perceiving
Instructional Theories		
David Ausubel	Meaningful reception	Students acquire information most effectively when teachers package lessons well and prepare students through advance organizers
Jerome Bruner	Discovery learning; spiral curriculum	Students learn through exploration and problem solving; provide age-appropriate experiences and repeated exposure
Robert Gagne	Events of Instruction	Learners progress through eight instructional events
Edwin Gordon	Music Learning Theory	Students progress through an 8 stage process that begins with aural and oral experiences with music and ends with theoretical understanding; audiation is the goal

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Provide children a
variety of musical
opportunities.



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Explore Developmental Benchmarks in the Arts



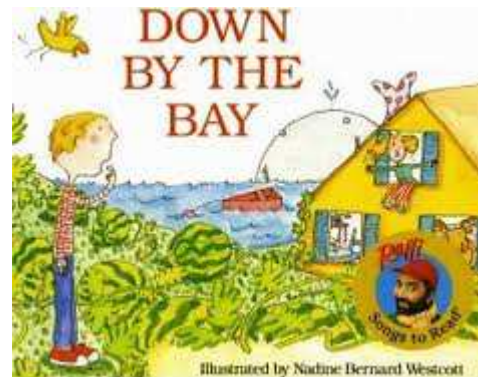
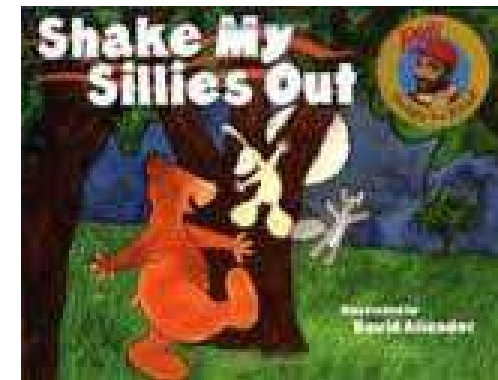
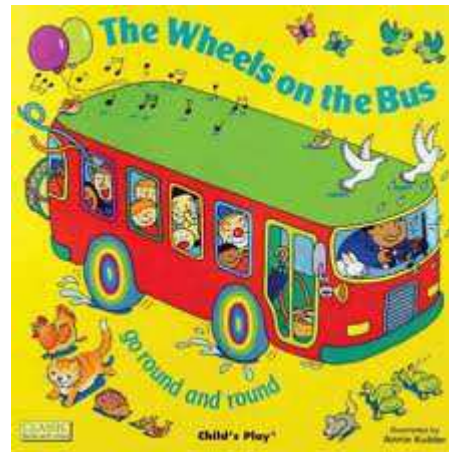
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Share musical
books with
your children.



Share musical books.

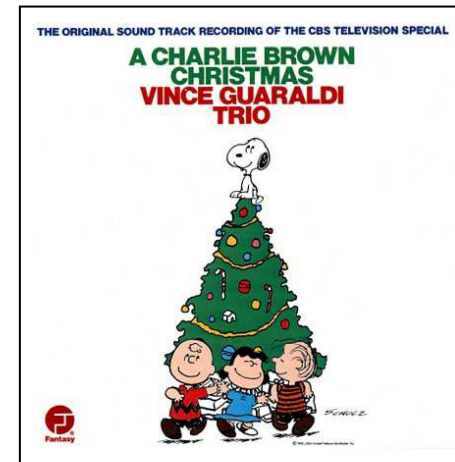


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Keep the Beat

Clapping



Encourage children to
clap or tap with the
beat of the music.



Tapping

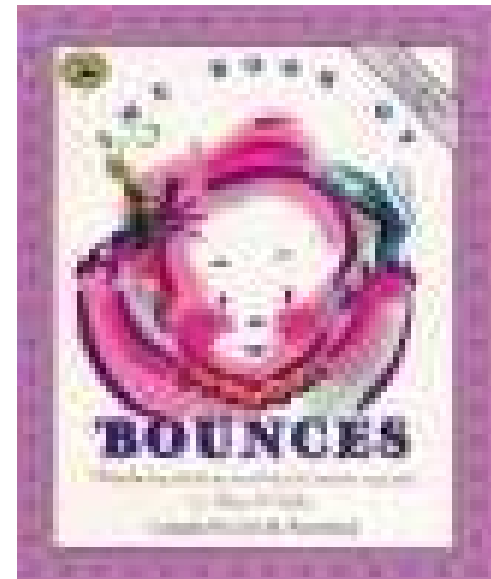
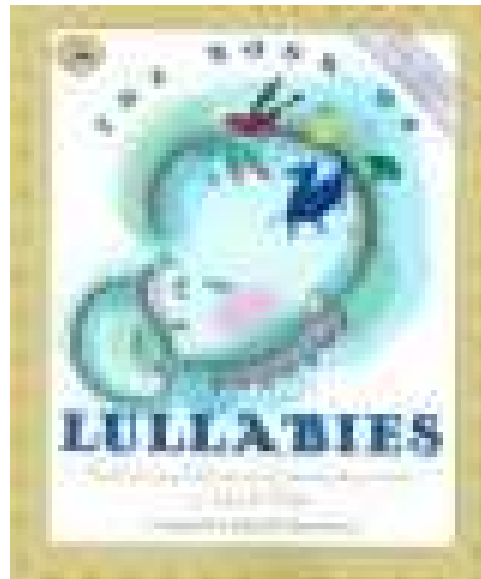
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Sing simple songs
for fun and learning.



Sing Songs



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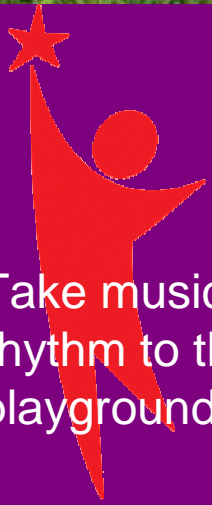
Find ways to
involve the child's
whole body in the
music.



Move with Streamers



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Take music and
rhythm to the
playground.



Parachute to Music



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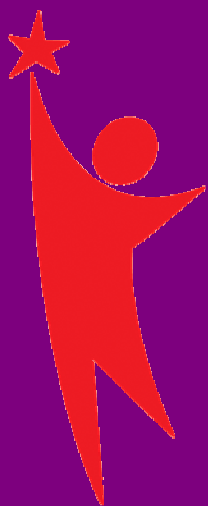
Find or create
musical instruments
for every age.



Share Instruments



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Now it's your turn!

How will you use music in
your learning environment?





Further information about
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